



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail: calpeek@aol.com

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CAMPAIGN 2004: WILL SAME SEX MARRIAGE BE THE TOP U.S. AND CALIF. WEDGE ISSUE IN 2004? MAYBE.

Editor's note: *Same sex marriage* is getting lots of national attention, due in part to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling tossing out State laws which made gay sex a crime. But the June ruling galvanized support among conservatives to push for a constitutional amendment to ban SSM in the U.S. It's a topic which could easily become the top wedge issue in *Campaign 2004*. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... Same sex marriage was put onto the front page and onto cable tv when Pres. George W. Bush said he was opposed to SSM – aka *gay marriage*. And then came the Vatican's announcement, followed by stories about an upcoming ruling due in *Massachusetts* concerning gay marriage which gives the topic even more staying power. The story gets longer legs because Demo presidential candidate Howard Dean, while governor of Vermont, signed a bill establishing civil unions – giving gay couples many of the same rights as married couples. So the topic is very hot right now and promises to remain that way...

... While attitudes toward gays are definitely much more tolerant than they were 15-20 years ago, a new poll by Galup shows that opposition to legal civil unions between gays is up: 57% now vs. 49% in May. The higher the profile, the higher the negatives. What would it take to make SSM into a wedge issue? If the DNC were to adopt a plank in the 2004 party platform supporting SSM. Odds of that happening? Right now not great...

... The movement to have Congress start on a federal marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution is being pushed hard by conservatives. In the House, HJ Res. 56 now has 76 co-sponsors, including Calif. GOP U.S. House members Herger, Doolittle, Pombo, Rohrabacher, Cunningham and Hunter. Is there a danger that this could backfire on the GOP? Most don't think so, but one can never tell...

... But for those who don't remember, there is a law already on the books called DOMA – the Defense of Marriage Act. It was signed in 1996 by former Pres. Bill Clinton(D) and

says very clearly that marriage means only a *legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife*.

The big question is whether Pres. Bush sees DOMA as being sufficient? And remember, Calif. has a law (Prop. 22) which defines marriage as being between a man and a woman...

... FYI: In Calif., there is no push for SSM legislation, but the Calif. Freedom to Marry Coalition (consisting of the ACLU, Equality Calif., Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Lambda Legal) say that's a long term goal. For now Calif. remains the leader in passing domestic partnership laws and laws which ban discrimination against gays. The bill which the Coalition is lobbying for now is AB 205 by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg(D-L.A.). In effect, AB 205 would give gay couples the same rights (and responsibilities) as married couples under state law. Next hearing on AB 205 is Aug. 18th. Stay tuned...

RECALL MADNESS: LIST OF CANDIDATES GROWS DAILY AS CALIF.'S RECALL BECOMES A CIRCUS.

Editor's note: The deadline for filing papers to run in the recall is Saturday, Aug. 9th. As *Calpeek* hit deadline on Aug. 6th, there were 389 individuals who had taken out papers, of whom 7-10 are considered serious. It's like a 3-ring circus with tons of news media coverage. And with Arnold Schwarzenegger's surprise announcement that he's IN, it's a whole new ballgame. Here's our analysis and commentary, with some new polling data...

... Polling data first. The numbers still don't look very encouraging for Gov. Gray Davis(D) in this Oct. 7th recall. A Calif. Teachers Assn. poll (by pollster David Binder) shows YES on recall 55% vs. NO on recall 39%. That's a 16-point gap and it is similar to other private Demo surveys (by the AFL-CIO and by Sacto-based pollster Jim Moore). And pollsters are still in the field, testing daily because as *Calpeek* has noted before, this recall tends to change every 12-24 hours. Davis' numbers may be horrible today, but they could improve in the weeks ahead. Or they might not change at all...

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... Regardless, the lousy polling numbers for Davis has made a number of Demos very nervous – and now with Arnold IN even more so. These Demos hold the view that Davis is *toast* and that if the progressive movement with a Demo governor in Sacto is to continue, a *credible Demo replacement* needs to file papers for part #2 of the recall ballot. On the other side are the Davis loyalists who say Davis has a much better chance of surviving IF there are no serious Demos on the replacement ballot (part #2)...

... *The Demos who are looking.* U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) is OUT. She said so before and repeated it again on Aug. 6th. With DiFi out, will other Demos run? **YES.** Former CA Sec. of State March Fong Eu, 81, has taken out papers. And Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante says he'll run too. So much for Demo Party unity. Several other Demo names have surfaced: U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez of Orange Co.; former L.A. Co. Assessor Kenneth Hahn (he's taken out papers); Demo Insurance Comm. John Garamendi (he's always wanted to be governor); and maybe consumer advocate Harvey Rosenfield. The key motivation for all these Demos (and Arnold) jumping into the recall is the fact that DiFi isn't running. DiFi held the key...

... *The GOPers who are running.* U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa of Vista is IN; State Sen. Tom McClintock of Camarillo is IN; last year's GOP candidate for governor Bill Simon Jr. is IN; and so is Schwarzenegger. Former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan will now back away. With the exception of McC, all these other guys are *deep pocketed* millionaires who can easily self-fund. Will these guys toss mud at each other? Our sources think so. And of the three millionaires, keep your eyes on Issa. He and his campaign team are very aggressive...

... *Others running.* Indep. Arianna Huffington is IN, but Green Party gubernatorial candidate Peter Camejo may be out. He said he would drop out if Arianna ran. Huffington might be the surprise to many. In a private poll by Jim Moore, Huffington comes in 2nd with 13% to Riordan's 34%. Simon is at 10%; Camejo 7%; McC at 6%; Issa 5%; no opinion 24%. This poll means nothing now that Riordan is probably out. To repeat: Issa was the enabler, but is not the beneficiary. His \$1.5 million to make the recall possible hasn't helped him – and against Arnold, our sources don't think Issa will do much better than low double-digits...

... FYI: Keep your eyes on the lawsuits. There are at least 3 with merit that could cause the Calif. Supreme Court to put a stay on the Oct. 7th election. The one filed by Gov. Davis and the NAACP about voting rights violations may be the one to watch, although sources also believe the law-

suit by Barry Keene has merit too. And keep your eyes on the growing feud between Rescue Calif. and the recall group headed by Howard Kaloogian over soliciting funds for legal expenses. Stay tuned...

BUDGET WARS: GOV. DAVIS SIGNS NEW SPENDING PLAN, BUT CALIF. STILL FACES FISCAL TROUBLE.
Editor's note: Even though there's just too much borrowing and hardly any structural reform, Gov. Gray Davis(D) signed the 2003-04, *\$99 billion* budget on Aug. 2nd. Here is our analysis & commentary, with a short list of *Budget Winners & Losers*...

... This budget was late again, causing more fiscal problems for State Controller Steve Westly(D) in his dealings with Wall Street. And both GOPers and Demos agree that this document wasn't a thing of beauty – lots of pain because of very heavy spending cuts, with virtually no new revenue except for \$4 billion as a result of rolling back the VLF (car tax) to 1998 levels. The big question is what happens next year, when borrowing will be out of the question???

... As for the VLF, it remains a very *iffy* revenue source. Some GOPers (namely State Sen. Tom McClintock) have gone to court to reverse the Dept. of Finance's decision to roll back the VLF. If these GOPers are successful, the budget will have a monster \$4 billion hole. Politically, the VLF roll back (begun in 1998 under former GOP Gov. Pete Wilson) was perhaps one of the most popular laws the CA Legislature ever enacted. If Gov. Davis could have kept the VLF roll back in place, he would have...

... *Winners & Losers.* Overall, sources in Sacto generally agree that GOP lawmakers showed *unity* that they haven't had in years past, when Davis and his Demo allies were able to *cherry pick* off just enough GOP votes to pass the budget. And there's little doubt that GOP Senate Leader Jim Brulte gets the lion's share of the credit for holding the GOP in line. The GOP will claim bragging rights for the next 18 months: a budget without *any new taxes*...

... Demo Senate Leader John Burton gets credit for doing the best he could in a bad situation. As one source told *Calpeek*, "From the beginning, everyone knew it would be a Burton/Brulte deal." Lobbyists give the Assembly only poor-to-fair marks for handling the budget. Lack of experience due to term limits is the reason...

... Davis emerges with battle scars. Looking back to January when he first presented his 2003-04 budget, some wonder why Davis didn't hammer with regularity the huge \$17 billion loss in State revenue caused by the slumping

stock market and the earlier collapse of the hi tech economy in the Silicon Valley. Yet it was the GOP's never ending spin that the budget crisis was caused by massive Demo spending which carried the day...

...Another potential winner: the coalition supporting the Budget Accountability Act – now in the field collecting signatures for the March 2004 ballot. The long delay in passing the budget as a result of requiring a 2/3rds vote may in fact help supporters of the BAA. Others disagree...

...Group winners: law enforcement; local govt. (they did not get hit as hard as they thought they would); education, except for UC & CSU students. Group losers: state employees – there are 21 bargaining units and these units will have to give back \$855 million in concessions or face layoffs. The CHP has already agreed to give up its 7.7% pay hike and sources think State Firefighters will do the same. According to one lobbyist, "The average Calif. taxpayers won't notice either the layoffs or the cuts in service." Interesting. Stay tuned...

SPORTS & POLITICS: CARSON OUT IN NFL's QUEST FOR L.A. STADIUM. COLISEUM REMAINS IN HUNT.
Editor's note: At the beginning of 2003, the National Football League(NFL) had its eyes on 3 potential sites to return pro football to the greater L.A. area: Carson, Pasadena's Rose Bowl and the venerable L.A. Coliseum – once home to the Rams and Raiders. By mid-year the NFL was beginning to look with favor toward Carson – L.A. was out and so was Pasadena. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...The NFL's flirtation with Carson lasted all of 2 months. The thought of spending millions and millions to clean up 85 acres of toxic landfill waste was too much, even for the NFL. The new federal probe into local government corruption probably didn't help either. That leaves the Rose Bowl and the Coliseum as the two most likely spots IF the San Diego Chargers are looking for a new home. And while the Coliseum may have been 3rd when the court-ing started, "By process of elimination the Coliseum could be the last soldier standing," says a high ranking L.A. City Hall source...

...While the Rose Bowl has some magic attached to its name, sources familiar with the process believe the new plans for the Rose Bowl have some serious flaws – the luxury boxes are at the top of stadium, not close to the playing field at all. And then there's this demand by that the NFL agree to have 4 Super Bowls at the Rose Bowl. The NFL doesn't like to be told what it must do!!!

...Backers of the L.A. Coliseum say pro football belongs

in downtown L.A., close to where people who would buy the luxury suites work. NFL complaints about the USC neighborhood might have been valid 8-10 years ago, but no longer. There's been a revival in the USC area, with museums, Exposition Park, the Figueroa Corridor. In addition, the L.A. Coliseum Commission has agreed to give up control to a 3rd party (meaning a football team). This is considered a key concession to win NFL approval...

...So where is L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn? As long as there is no public funding, Hahn's OK with a return of pro football to the L.A. Coliseum or any other location in L.A. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Campaign funding reports are in for ballot measures and we have some polling data about the PRI – the Racial Privacy Initiative...

◆ **Prop. 54** – This is the PRI – aka CRENO (Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color and National Origin). This very controversial initiative authored by Ward Connerly is still leading in the new Field Poll, but not by that much. Among likely voters, 50% would vote YES vs. 29% NO and 21% undecided. In the Field Poll break out, the only group which is solidly against PRI is Latinos: 49% NO vs. 41% YES, with 10% undecided. Even among Demo likely voters, Prop. 54 is ahead: 42% YES vs. 38% NO...

...NO on 54, known as the Coalition for an Informed Calif., officially launched their campaign Aug. 7th. In terms of campaign funding, NO on 54 reported \$489,996 raised, with \$360,474 cash on hand. No reports from YES on 54...

◆ **Prop. 53** – This is ACA 11, which if approved would require that 3% of the general fund budget be spent on infrastructure programs each year. YES on 53's official committee name is YES on Calif.'s Future. YES on Prop. 53. Thus far only \$28,750 raised, with \$20,495 cash on hand. Still no word on whether SEIU and CTA will oppose Prop. 53, but both have already expressed their unhappiness with ACA 11. But whether they'll decide to put in some heavy \$\$\$ to oppose Prop. 53 is unknown. Sources say CTA's Board of Directors will meet on Aug. 21st. Stay tuned...

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CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here is *Part XVII* in our continuing series of updates about key U.S. House and Calif. Legislative primary races. Campaign contribution reports for the period Jan. 1st -June 30th are now in – and *Calpeek* will update its readers about fundraising in the weeks ahead...

☒ **5th SD** – It's official. Stockton Mayor Gary Podesta has announced his candidacy for this seat now held by Demo State Sen. Mike Machado of Linden. Podesta is a GOPer and has hired Sacto-based Johnson Clark as his cmp. consultant. Podesta has been a very popular mayor in Stockton these past 7 ½ years and Stockton is the largest city in the 5th SD. Machado raised \$285,408 during the last 6 months and had \$233,763 cash on hand. Bottomline: even though this SD has a 48%(D) vs. 36%(R) voter registration, this general election battle will be very, very bloody and close...

☒ **37th AD Update** – Mike Robinson(R) has rounded out his campaign team for the upcoming primary. Sacto-based Steve Presson will be the campaign consultant; Jonathan Tee will be the cmp. mgr.; Marian Nelson has signed on as fundraising director; and Arnie Steinberg has been signed as pollster. Robinson is a former staffer to State Sen. Tom McClintock(R). In addition to McC, Robinson also has been endorsed by former DA Mike Bradbury, former GOP Assemblywoman Paula Boland, and Lew Uhler of the Nat'l Tax Limitation Cmt. In terms of fundraising, Robinson leads his GOP rivals. He has raised \$480,791, with \$444,165 coh. The 37th AD is currently represented by termed out Assemblyman Tony Strickland(R). Also running in the 37th AD GOP primary are Strickland's wife, Audra; and Ventura Co. Deputy DA Jeff Gorell. Strickland raised \$232,724 and had \$331,226 coh; Gorell raised \$76,062, with \$50,985 coh....

☒ **33rd AD Update** – In his GOP primary battle to win the open 33rd AD, San Luis Obispo businessman Sam Blakeslee reported raising \$174,408, with \$148,599 coh. Blakeslee's key GOP rival is Matt Kokkonen, who has raised \$106,363 and has \$88,831 coh. Kokkonen's campaign is now on cable-tv with a 4 week buy in the SLO and Santa Maria markets...

☒ **35th SD Update** – In the bitterly fought open 35th SD GOP primary between Assemblymembers John Campbell and Ken Maddox, Campbell reported raising \$504,741, with \$501,068 coh vs. Maddox with \$185,607 raised and \$250,934 coh...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **New Field Poll on Demo Presidential Primary** – The new Field Poll is great news for former VT Gov. Howard Dean. Not only has he broken into the top tier among likely Calif. Demo voters, but he leads the pack with 16%. U.S. Senators John Kerry of MA and Joe Lieberman of CT are 2nd and 3rd with 15% and 14% respectively. Trailing in 4th place is U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt with just 7%. In April of this year Gephardt was in 3rd place with 12% (Dean was at only 7%). And if you're looking for the big loser, it's Lieberman, who in April was at 22%. U.S. Sen. John Edwards of NC is at 4%, while Kucinich, Graham and Sharp-ton were at 3% each and Braun at 2%, with 33% undecided...

■ **The Return of Grover McKean** – Sources say that after spending years in DC, Grover McKean(D) will be returning to Calif. McKean was CA Treas. Jess Unruh's top deputy. For the past 15 years he's been an investment banker and pension fund mgr., most recently a Sr. VP with Union Labor Life Insurance Co.(ULLIC). Will McKean take a look at the CA Treasurer's job for 2004? Sources say that's possible. He's certainly well qualified...

■ **Simon's Campaign Team** – *Team Simon* will have a very different look from last year: Lead consultant Wayne Johnson; daily mgr. Tim Clark; communications director K.B. Forbes; and pollster Dr. Gary Lawrence. It's a very savvy team...

■ **Calpeek's Legal File** – The Feds have arrested R. Keith McDonald, son of U.S. Rep. Juanita McDonald (D-Carson). He's been charged with extortion. Arrested with McDonald was Tyrone Smith. Same charge. Both serve on the West Basin Muni Water District Board. So the legal spotlight refocuses on Carson once again as a hotbed of political corruption. And remember: Mayor Daryl Sweeney pled guilty in late July to extortion charges; former Carson Councilwoman Raunda Frank also pleaded guilty earlier this year to extortion; and ditto former Carson Mayor Pete Fajardo...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

July 29-Aug. 1	Council of State Govts- <i>West</i> annual meeting, Honolulu, HI. (916)553-4423 for info.
Aug. 18	CA Legislature convenes after summer recess.
Sept. 10-13	League of CA Cities annual conf., Sacramento.
Sept. 12	CA Legislature adjourns.
Sept. 12-14	CA Republican Party fall convention, LAX Marriott Hotel.